(e) whether there is any proposal to privatise some of these steel plants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) to (c) There are eight steel units under Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL). Of these, six are running in loss. The accummulated losses of these units as on 30.9.2000 are given below:

Sl. No.	Name of Steel Plant	Accummulated loss (Rs. crore)
1.	Durgapur Steel plant, Durgapur	3845
2.	Rourkela Steel Plant, Rourkela	2166
3.	Alloy Steel Plant, Durgapur	970
4.	Salem Steel Plant, Salem	551
5.	Visveswaraya Iron & Steel Plant (VISP), Bhadravati.	199
6.	Indian Iron & Steel Co. Ltd., Burnpur	529*

*Accumulated losses amounting to Rs.1694 crore have been written off as part of the Government approved financial restructuring of SAIL.

(d) and (e) Visveswaraya Iron & Steel Plant (VISP), a unit of SAIL is located in Bhadaravati, Karnatka. As a part of the Government approved restructuring plan, some of SAIL's non-core/non-viable assets are to be converted into joint ventures including the VISP.

Setting up of Sponge Iron Industries in Andhra Pradesh

1549. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that iron ore, pellets, non-coking coal and natural gas, which are ideal for setting up sponge iron industries, are available in abundance in Krishna and Godavari basins of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so the details thereof; and

(c) the steps and incentives Gvernment have in mind to encourage sponge iron industries in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI BRAJ KISHORE TRIPATHY): (a) and (b) Non-Coking Coal and Natural Gas are available in abundant quantities in Andhra Pradesh. Limited quantity of Iron Ore is found in some places in Andhra Pradesh. Non-Coking Coal is

found in Godavari Basin at various places in Khammam, Warangal, Adilabad and Karimnagar Districts. Reserves are estimated at 13856 million tonnes. Natural Gas is found in off and on-shore areas of Krishna and Godavari Basins. A limited quanity of Iron Ore is found as discontinuous patches in the Districts of Krishna and Khammam.

(c) Under the extant industrial policy regime, entrepreneurs are free to set up sponge iron plants any where in the country based on their commercial judgement. No prior permission of the Government is required to set up such plants. No specific steps and incentives are under consideration of the Central Government to encourage sponge iron industry in Andhra Pradesh.

Representations Regarding Plants for 'Dispersed Tribals'

1550. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether specific representations have been received from social activists and other's that plans be devised for "Dispersed Tribals";

(b) if so, the details of such representations;

(c) whether any team has been sent to study such demands;

(d) what steps will be taken to test new policies and strategies to reach dispersed tribals; and

(e) the full details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) and (b) A representation addressed to Planning Commission has been received from Dr. P. Pulla Rao, wherein he has alleged that benefits of development have not reached the hill tribals in remote areas and dispersed tribals particularly of West Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh.

(c) No, Sir. However, a report has been called from the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

(d) and (e) The strategy of Tribal Sub Plan has already been extended to dispersed tribals with effect from Seventh Five Year Plan. Further dispersed tribals are eligible to take benefits of various Central and Centrally sponsored schemes funded by this Ministry and implemented through States and UTs. The State Governments and Union Territory Administrations are periodically requested to create awareness amog tribals about various development programmes/schemes and ensure that benefits the target group.